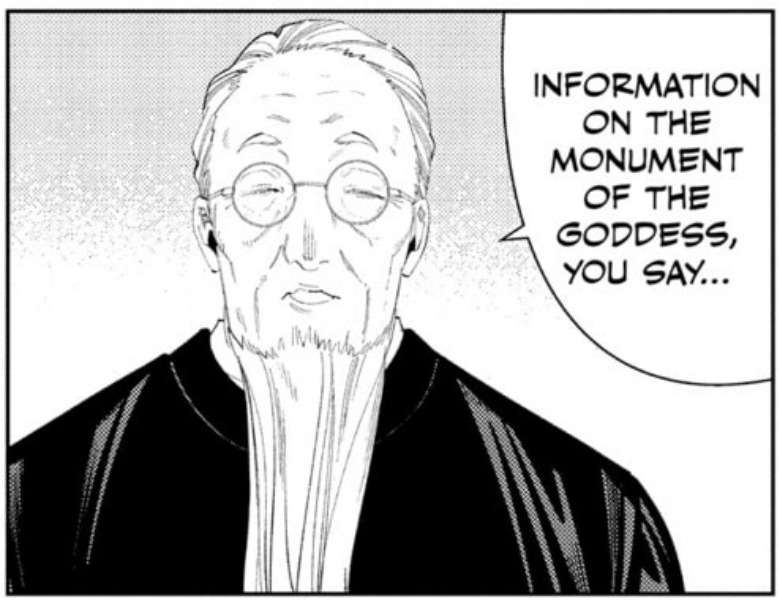
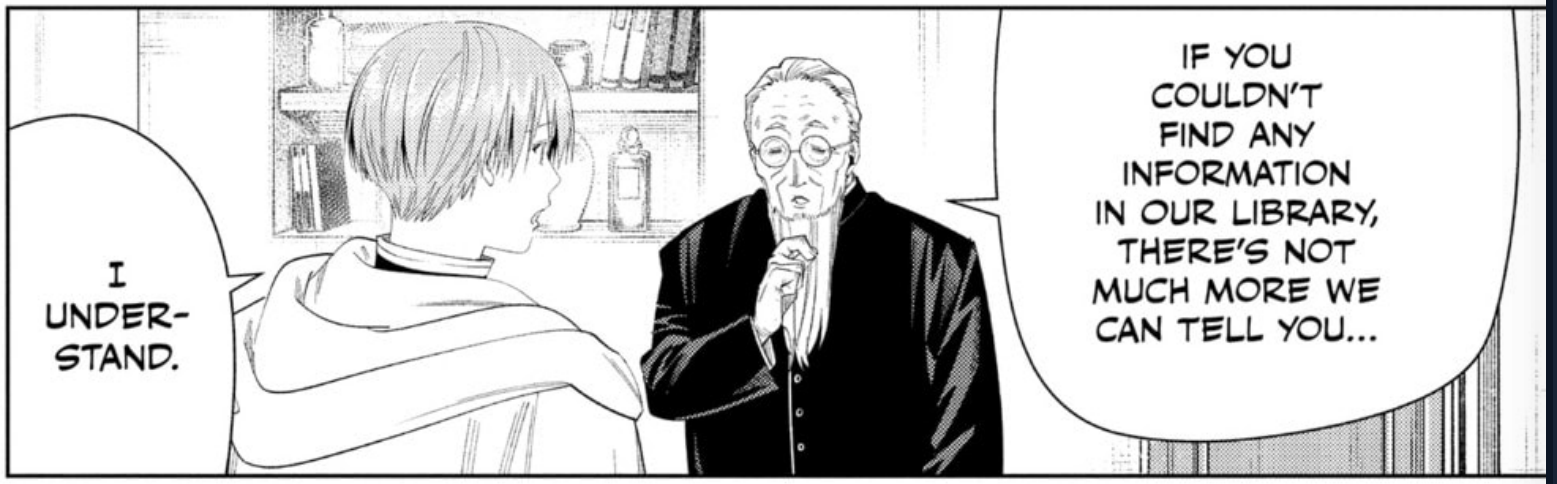
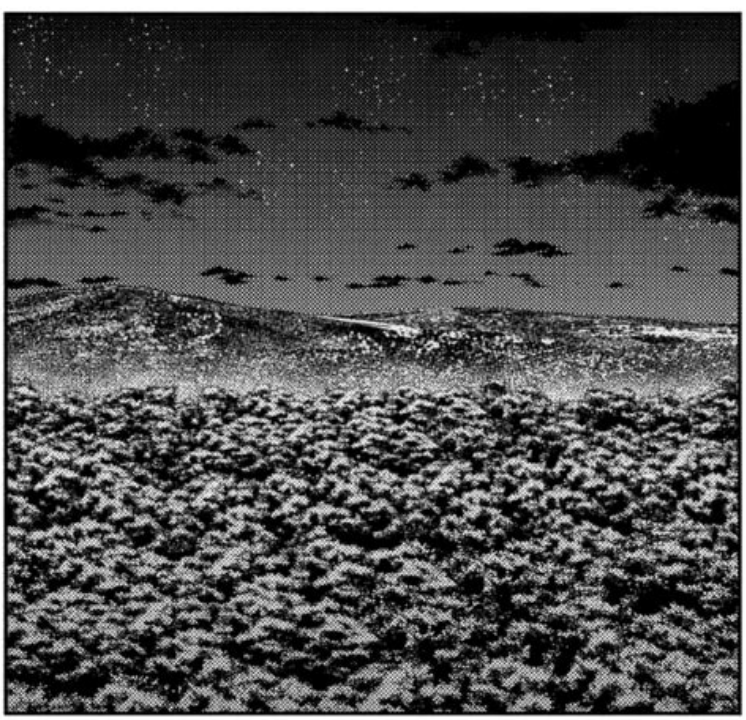
Chapter 113: Abyssal Dragon

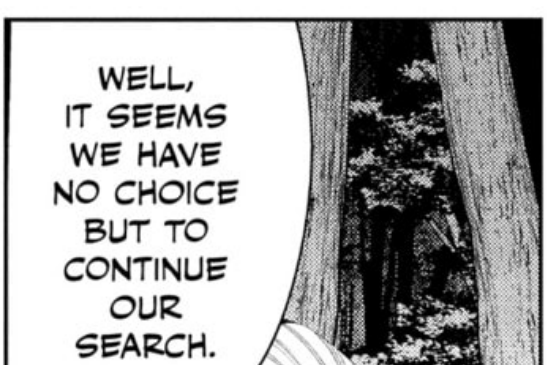

INFORMATION ON THE MONUMENT OF THE GODDESS, YOU SAY...

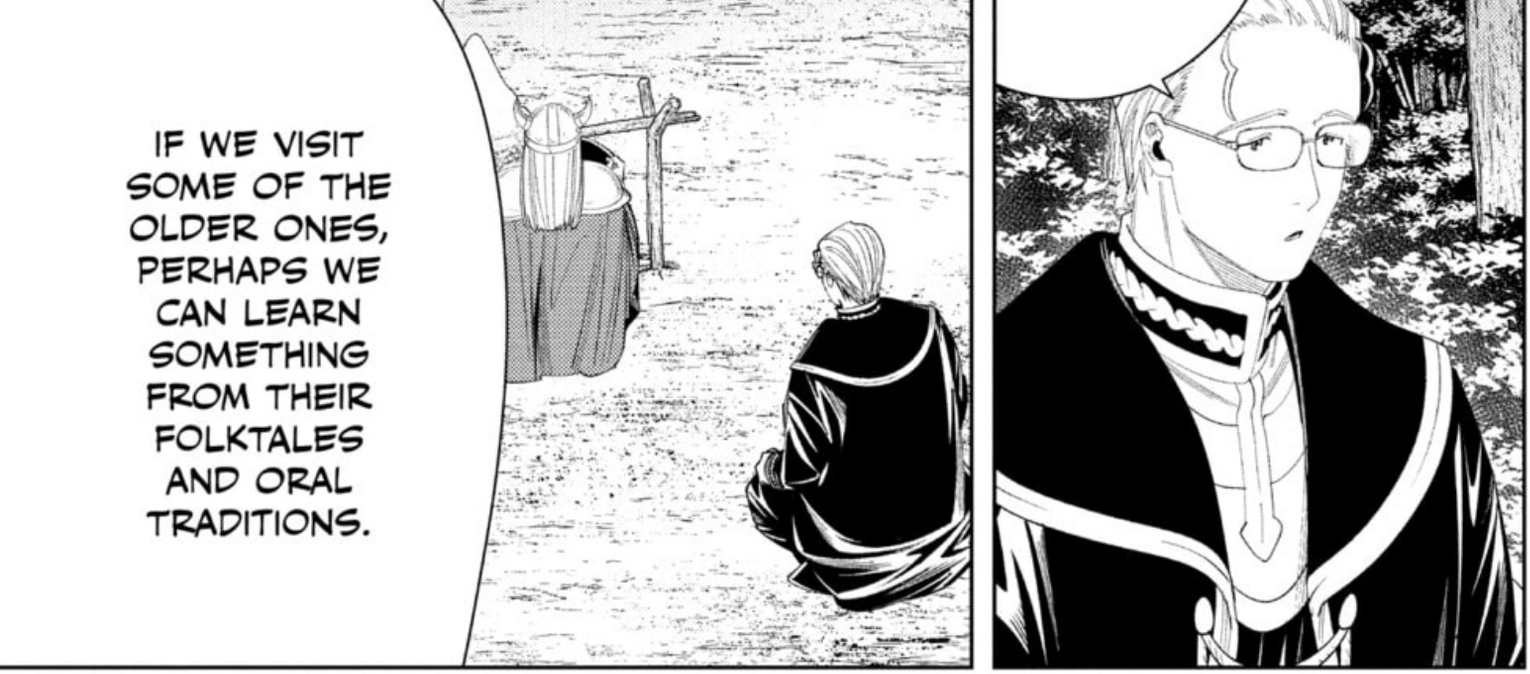
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING AT ALL?


I UNDER-STAND.
IF YOU COULDN'T FIND ANY INFORMATION IN OUR LIBRARY, THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE WE CAN TELL YOU...



THE NORTHERN PLATEAU IS DOTTED WITH SETTLEMENTS.


WELL, IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE OUR SEARCH.


IF WE VISIT SOME OF THE OLDER ONES, PERHAPS WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM THEIR FOLKTALES AND ORAL TRADITIONS.

FOLKTALES AND ORAL TRADITIONS ...
THAT COULD WORK.

LET'S WORK OUR WAY AROUND THOSE VILLAGES AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT.

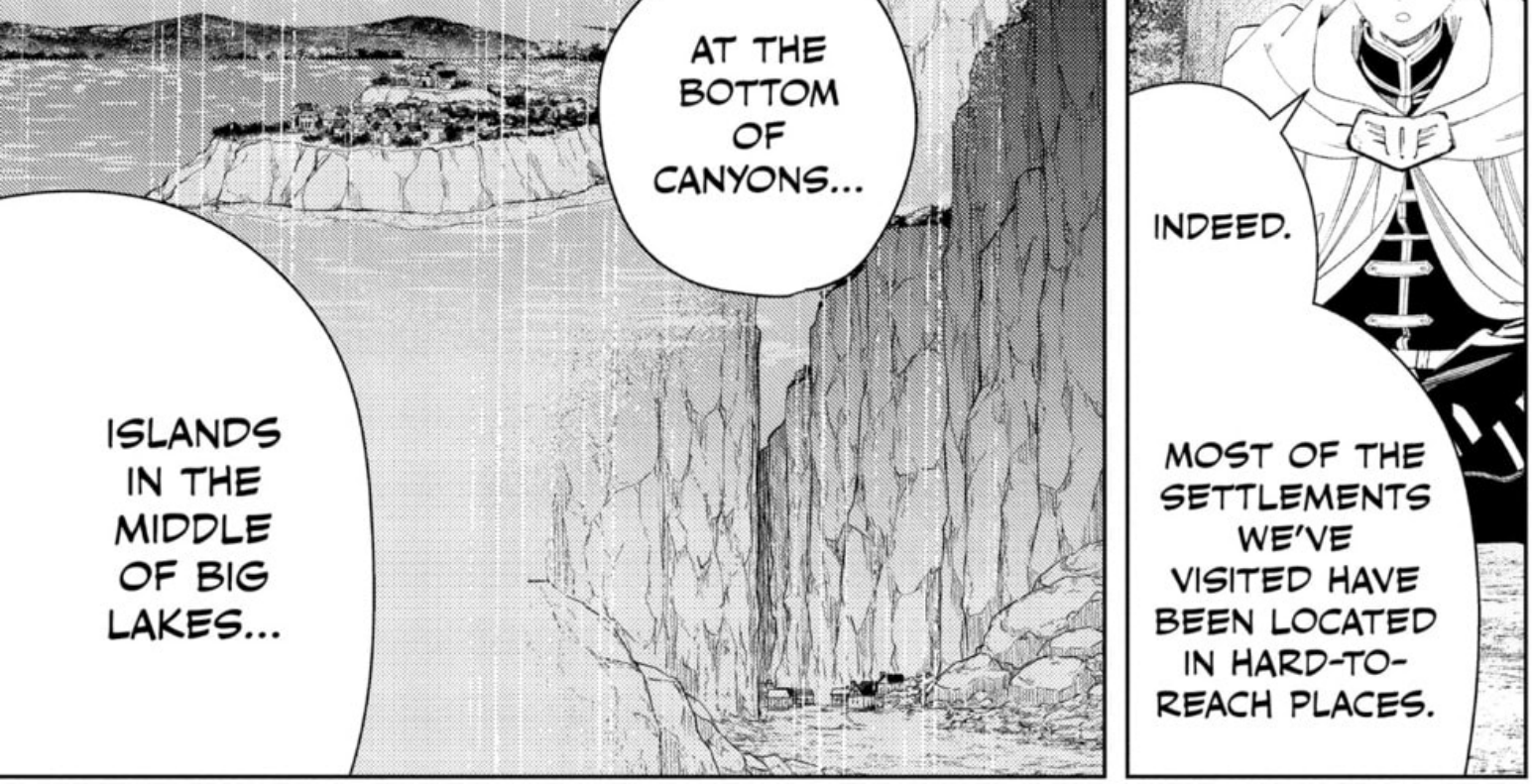
IT'S TIME FOR SOME LEG-WORK, THEN.
THAT'S MY SPECIALTY.

YEAH, YOU GOTTA USE YOUR LEGS FOR THAT!
YOU KNOW THAT DOESN'T MEAN LITERAL LEGWORK, YOU MUSCLE-HEAD...

SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTHERN PLATEAU ARE OFTEN BUILT IN DIFFICULT TERRAIN...
...BECAUSE OF THE THREAT OF MONSTERS.

BUT I SUPPOSE YOU'RE NOT WRONG ABOUT NEEDING STAMINA FOR THIS.

ON TOP OF CLIFFS...

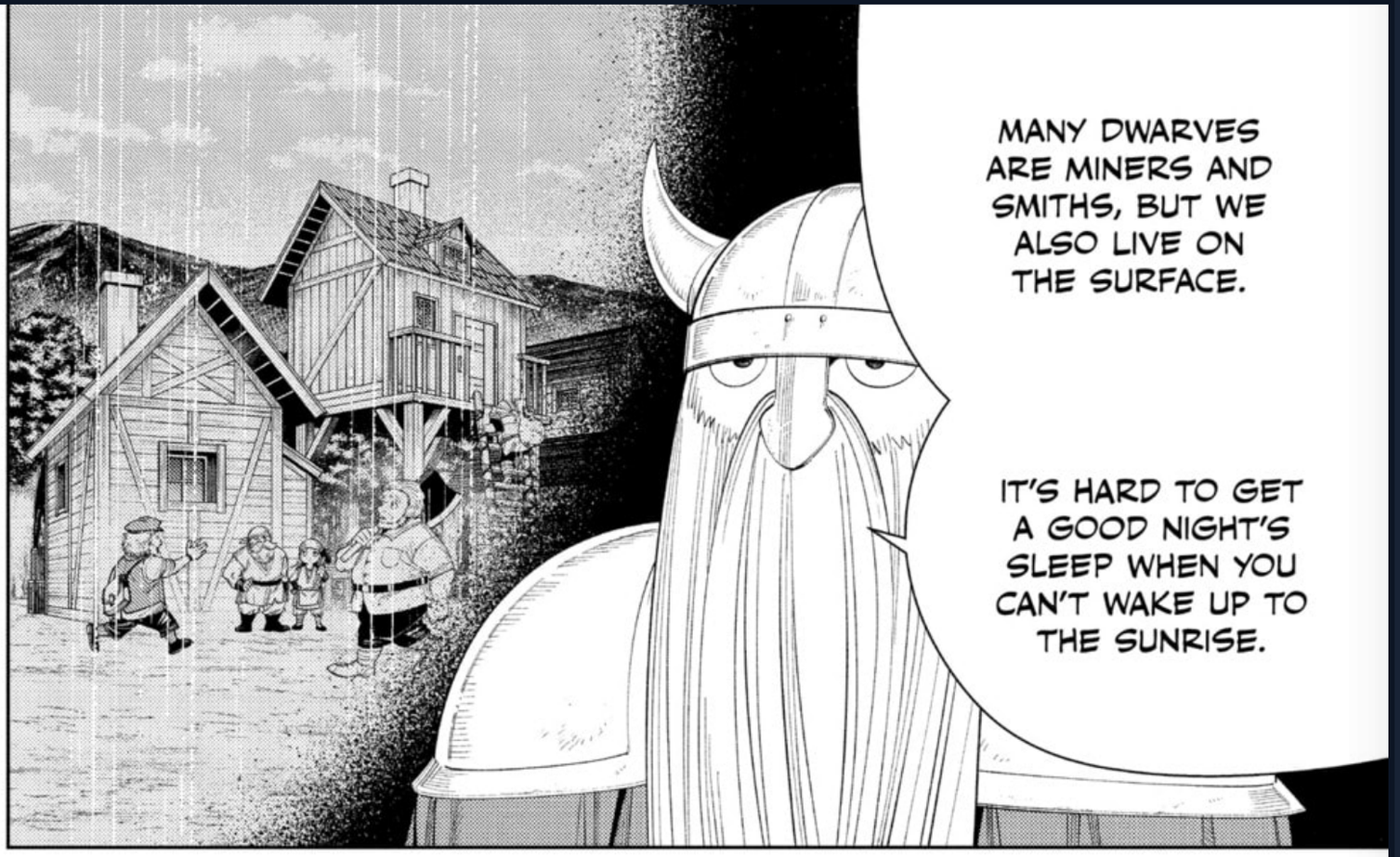

AT THE BOTTOM OF CANYONS...
ISLANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF BIG LAKES...

INDEED.
MOST OF THE SETTLEMENTS WE'VE VISITED HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN HARD-TO-REACH PLACES.

ISN'T THAT TYPICAL FOR DWARVES?

IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK OF US?

YEAH...
SOME WERE EVEN INSIDE CAVES.

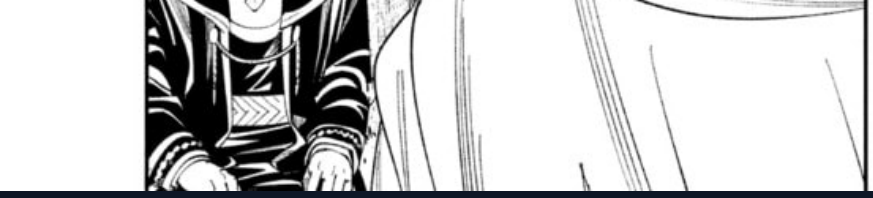

MANY DWARVES ARE MINERS AND SMITHS, BUT WE ALSO LIVE ON THE SURFACE.
IT'S HARD TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WHEN YOU CAN'T WAKE UP TO THE SUNRISE.

SEEMS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO VISIT A LOT OF REMOTE PLACES AFTER ALL, WON'T WE?
WE'RE GOING TO NEED OUR STRENGTH.

I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.

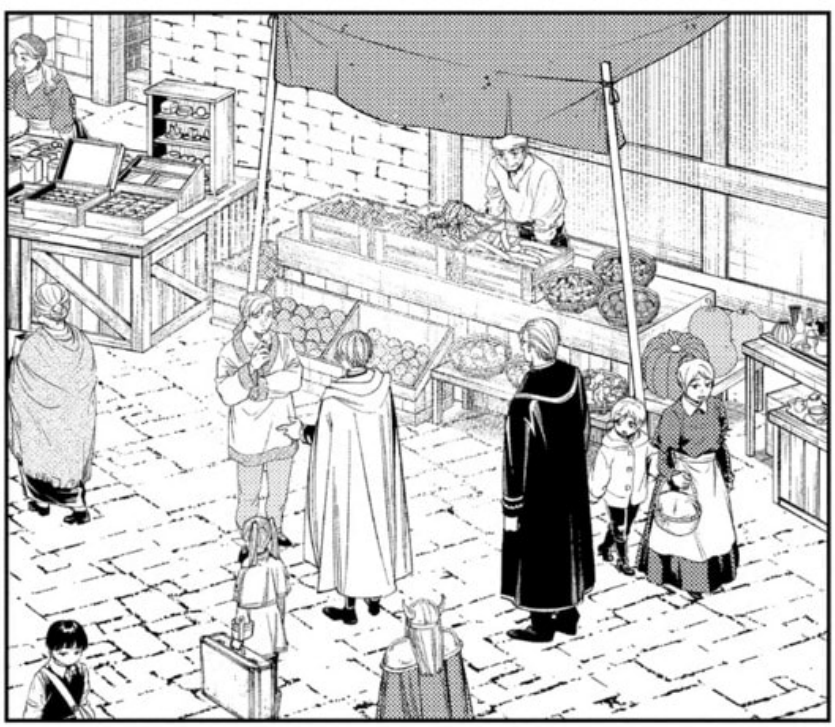
THINK OF ALL THE LOCAL BREWS YOU'LL GET TO TRY!

IT WON'T BE SO BAD.

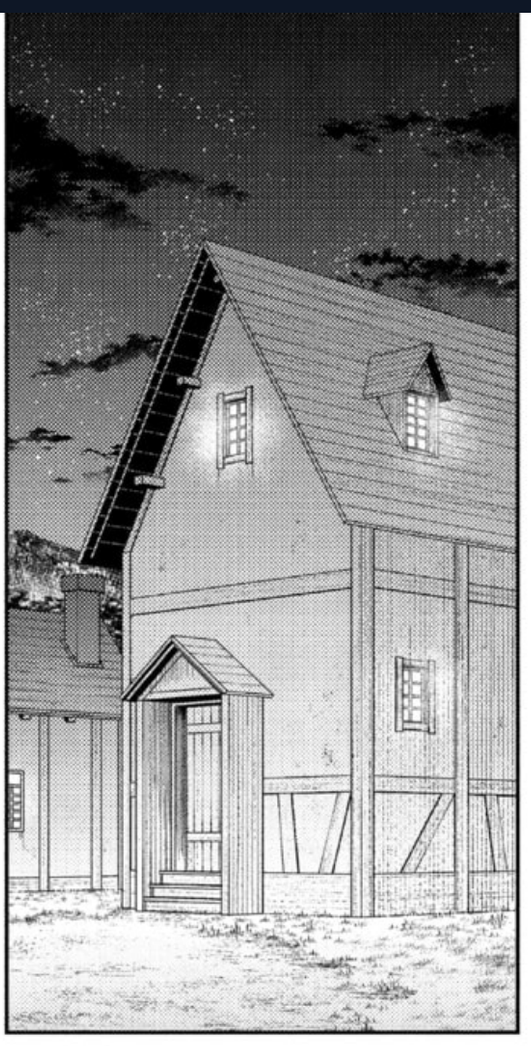


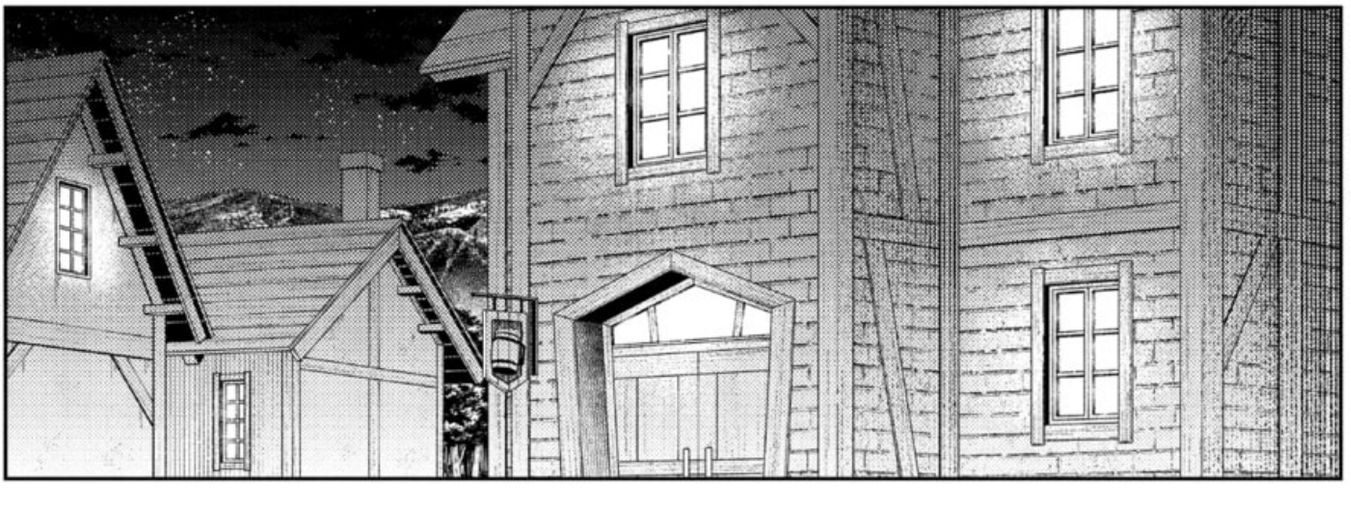
IN IT FOR THE ALCOHOL.
WHAT A CORRUPT PRIEST.

WELL THEN, WE BETTER GET GOING!
LET'S HIT THOSE VILLAGES AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND!



SORRY, BUT THERE AREN'T ANY LEGENDS LIKE THAT HERE IN OUR VILLAGE.
I SEE.





I WASN'T JUS' *DRINKIN'*.
EXCUSE YOU...

C'MON, LET'S GO, HEITER.
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP DRINKING?

SO, BARKEEP, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
NOTHING.

I'VE BEEN *QUESTIONIN'* THE BARKEEP HERE.

I'M AFRAID WE'RE CLOSING NOW.
TIME TO GO HOME.

HE SAID "NOTH-ING."
WHAT A CORRUPT PRIEST.

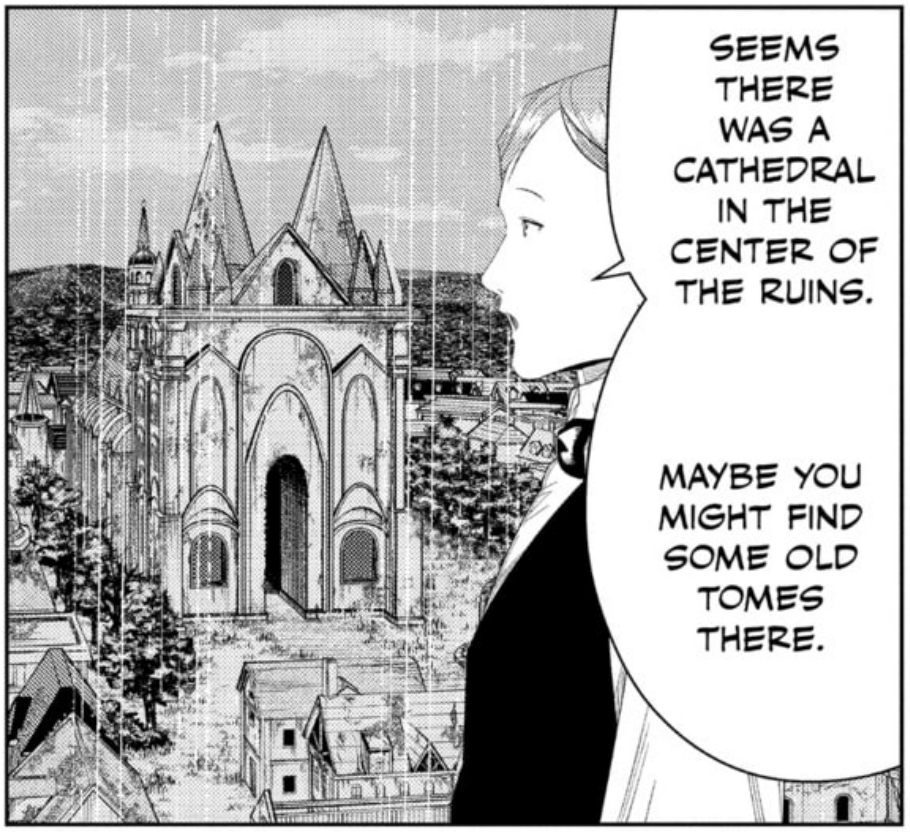
AH...
COME TO THINK OF IT...

DRAG DRAG

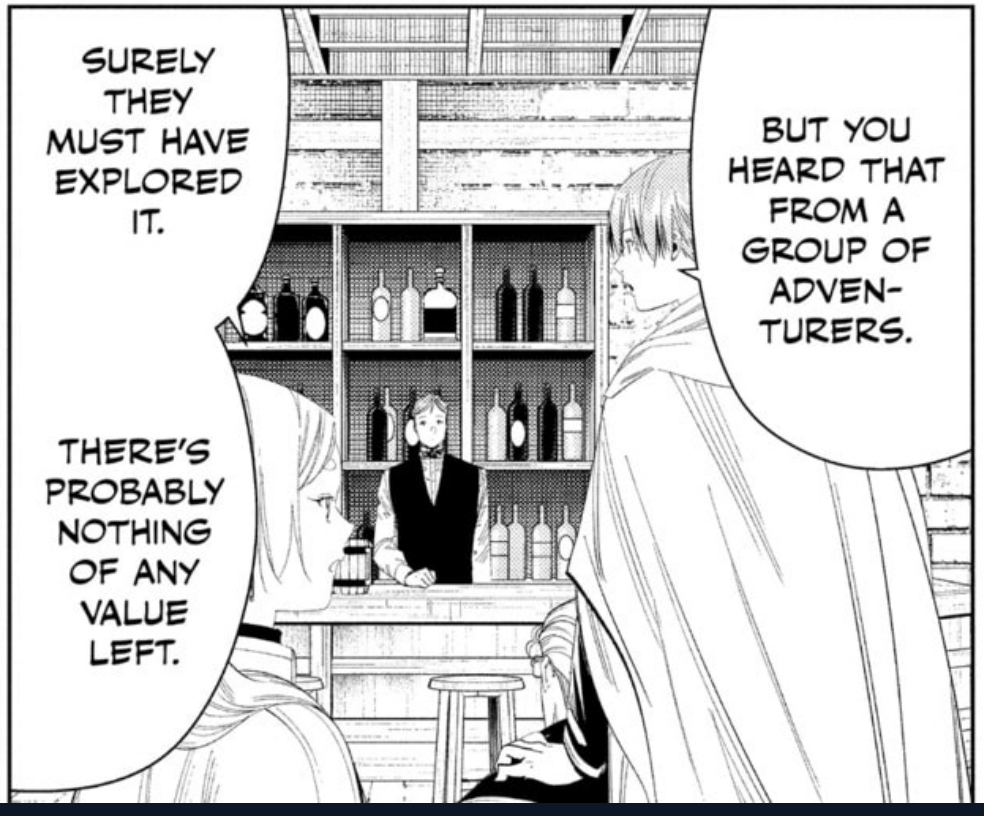
A LONG TIME AGO, I WAS LISTENING IN ON A BAND OF ADVENTURERS WHO WERE BASED HERE IN THE VILLAGE.

THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THE RUINS OF A CITY THAT THEY'D DISCOVERED DEEP IN THE WOODS SOUTH OF HERE. A CITY FROM THE AGE OF THE UNIFIED EMPIRE.

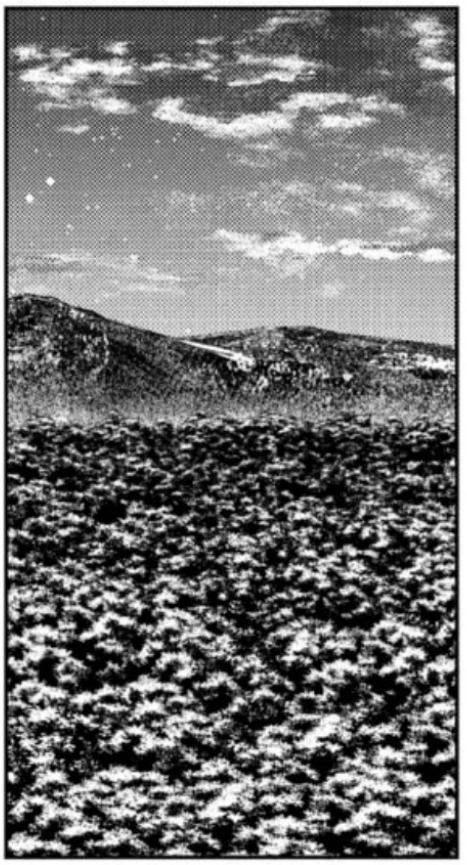
I SEE.


SEEMS THERE WAS A CATHEDRAL IN THE CENTER OF THE RUINS.
MAYBE YOU MIGHT FIND SOME OLD TOMES THERE.

I DON'T THINK THAT'LL BE A PROBLEM.


SURELY THEY MUST HAVE EXPLORED IT.
THERE'S PROBABLY NOTHING OF ANY VALUE LEFT.
BUT YOU HEARD THAT FROM A GROUP OF ADVEN-TURERS.

THAT GROUP OF ADVENTURERS NEVER RETURNED FROM THEIR EXPEDITION INTO THOSE RUINS.



THAT'S IT.

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
NO.
NOPE. HE IS NOT OKAY.
SEEING A BIG TOWN LIKE THAT ALL IN RUINS IS KINDA SPOOKY.
OH, HE'LL BE FINE WHEN THE TIME COMES.
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, HEITER.
I'M GONNA THROW UP...
WANT A BACK RUB?
WHAT A USELESS PRIEST.

THERE'S NO NEED.
LOOK AT THE BELL TOWER.
FRIEREN ...
DO YOU DETECT ANY MAGIC?
THE MOST POWERFUL SPECIES OF DRAGON IN THE NORTHERN PLATEAU.
THAT'S AN ABYSSAL DRAGON.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT IT, I CAN DO IT...
...BUT THE ABYSSAL DRAGON WILL TRACK MY MANA BACK TO US.

I GUESS IT'S CLAIMED THIS WHOLE TOWN AS ITS TERRITORY.
AND THAT'S WHY THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER MONSTERS IN RANGE OF MY MAGIC DETECTION.

AH...
TOO LATE.

BWE

SH
B
OOM

NICE WORK, FRIEREN.
THAT WAS A POWERFUL DEFENSIVE SPELL YOU USED TO STOP THE ABYSSAL DRAGON'S ATTACK.
EVERYONE OKAY?
I HAVE A PLAN.
I THINK WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.
HEITER, YOU BACK US UP.
CAN YOU DO THAT?
EISEN, YOU GO STRAIGHT IN AND GET ITS ATTENTION.
ME AND FRIEREN'LL HIT IT

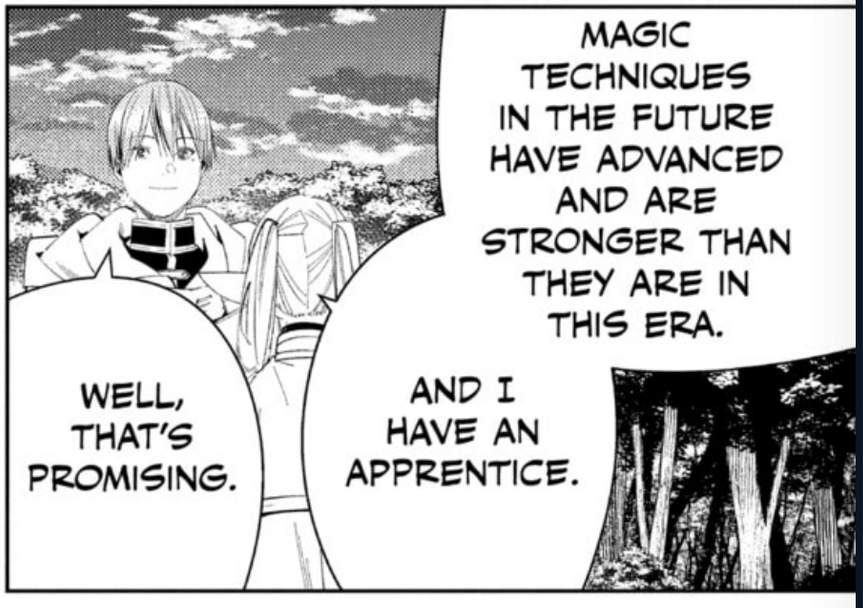
YEAH...

FROM THE SIDE.

YOU DON'T HAVE A SCRATCH ON YOU, BUT YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DYING.
IT WAS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.
ONE MISTAKE AND WE ALL WOULD'VE BEEN ASHES BLOWING IN THE WIND, THOUGH.
YUP.
PRETTY COOL, WASN'T IT?
DID YOU SEE THAT FINISHING MOVE I MADE?
I'M GOING TO TREAT YOUR WOUND, SO HOLD STILL.
YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSING ME.
JUST DON'T THROW UP ON ME.
THAT VICTORY WAS A GROUP EFFORT.
WE'RE ALL PRETTY COOL.

WAS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE?
THEY SURE MAKE A RACKET.
YOU ALL HAVEN'T CHANGED.
WHAT IS IT, FRIEREN?
OH, NOTHING.
A LOT HAS HAP-PENED.
BUT I THINK *YOU'VE* CHANGED, FRIEREN.
YOU SEEM MORE INSIGHTFUL.
OF COURSE NOT.
WE HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
THAT'S A FACT.

IT'S REALLY DARK AND SCARY IN HERE!
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID ABOUT INSIGHT...
SO, SHOULD WE LEAVE THE ELF BEHIND?


MAGIC TECHNIQUES IN THE FUTURE HAVE ADVANCED AND ARE STRONGER THAN THEY ARE IN THIS ERA.
AND I HAVE AN APPRENTICE.
WELL, THAT'S PROMISING.

ISN'T IT?
HEH, HEH
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO EXPLORE THAT CATHEDRAL!

You had too much to drink.
Geez...
I didn't drink...
Now that's...
...a bit of a stretch...

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